

Sex Offender Management Board Summary Minutes October 26, 2015

The SOMB met at the Dover Police Department Community Room in Dover, on October 26, 2015. Present at the meeting were:

Board Members or Designees:

Chair: **Commissioner Rob Coupe**

Vice Chair: **Cheri Will**

**Daniel Cherneski
Peggy Bell
Kathleen Dickerson
Alan Grinstead
David Henderson**

**John Sadowski
Terry Pepper
Lisa Minutola
Valerie Marek**

**Susan Burns
Judge William Nicholas
Jay Lynch
Lt. Eric Hamm**

Interested Parties:

Lisa Morris
Laura Cooney-Koss

Stacey Huffman
Sophie Day

A. Maria Marcelin

CJC Staff: Valarie Tickle

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:35 p.m. The minutes from the August 31, 2015 minutes were approved unanimously.

The Board discussed the future of the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) and the path forward. Following the suggestion from the previous meeting, the SOMB continues to work with the CJC Legislative Committee and the Governor's Office for a solution.

Secretary Schiliro has announced his retirement and the Board publically thanked the Secretary for his service.

The Board welcomes former Vice Chair Cheri Will as the new Chair. The Board members then conducted the election of a new Vice Chair. As per the SOMB legislation – *“The Board shall elect from amongst its membership, a Vice Chair, who shall become the Chairperson of the Board upon the expiration of the Chairperson's term.”* The new incoming Secretary of Safety & Homeland Security was nominated and unanimously approved by the members to be the next Vice Chair.

Commissioner Coupe gave the Board an update on the letter about the local ordinances that was drafted and sent to the legislature. The Commissioner received some feedback and potential interest on the matter. Further discussion will take place in January when the legislative session begins.

The Commissioner then informed the Board that a request for proposal was posted for the Department of Correction – Bureau of Community Correction sex offender treatment contract services. Applications were submitted and the review process is currently taking place. A concern was raised again about Title 13 § “724A *Rebuttable presumption against unsupervised visitation, custody or residence of a child to a sex offender; (b) The above presumptions may be overcome if: (4) The sex offender has successfully completed an intensive program of evaluation and counseling designed specifically for sex offenders and conducted by a public or private agency or a certified mental health professional, and as a result of such, does not pose a risk to children.*” Judge Nicholas suggested revisiting the statute and having the SOMB present proposed additional and/or modified language to the code for individuals to become compliant to the legislature. It was decided that the SOMB Legislative Subcommittee be reconvened to work on the language. Lisa Minutola is the Chair of the SOMB Legislative Subcommittee. A meeting(s) of the SOMB Legislative Subcommittee will be held to discuss the matter prior to the next SOMB Board meeting.

Dan Cherneski let the Board know that invitations were sent to convene a Credentialing Subcommittee meeting.

Peggy Bell continues to work on the local ordinances information posted to the website. There is also the housing buffer zone map.

Lisa Minutola discussed work being completed through a CJC Byrne grant in regard to juveniles on the sex offender registry. Lisa also talked about the national movement on removing the requirement of listing juvenile sex offenders on a public registry. It was suggested that additional training be sought to continue increasing awareness on juvenile sex offenders and the recidivism rate.

Jay Lynch informed members that there is a house dedicated to sex offenders in Wilmington.

The group then discussed the SOMB meeting schedule. The By-Laws (previously distributed via email) and the code state that the Board meets regularly. In order to comply with FOIA rules, the Board must have 5 meetings a year. The subcommittees can meet more or less frequently as needed. The meeting schedule will be revisited once the future path of the SOMB has been determined.

Public Comment- None.

Adjournment: The SOMB regularly meets the last Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. It was decided due to holiday schedules, there **will NOT be a meeting in November or December.** This will also give the subcommittees time to meet over the next two months. The **next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 25, 2016.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p. m.